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wainscottings, appliances for the sick room, industrial dwelling and Cottage Hygiene will be represented in some of the seven classes into which the exhibition is to be divided. Rumors are floating about that the condition of some of the homes in the famous Bedford Park are not everything that could be desired. The wooden railings and palisade have been left unpainted, and the late wet weather has done some damage to the unprotected wood. Another practical question is fire prevention, and this unfortunately is one that still awaits solution. A committee of the Society of Arts is now sitting to inquire into the means for the prevention of fire in theatres and other places of amusement, and two papers have been lately read before the Society on the general subject of fires and their prevention. As to systems for extinguishing fires it cannot be said that anything very satisfactory has been made public. Occasionally some sheds are set fire to and at once put out by a new process which is declared to be most successful, but nothing more is heard of it, and another takes its place. At Vienna a very elaborate system of water pipes has been arranged for use in the theatres. Pipes are so placed that the water can be made to play in all directions. Electricity is brought into use, and by means of a key-board any or all of the pipes can be made to discharge their contents as required. The patentee of the process is prepared to introduce it into England and other countries when he may be required to do so.

While agitators and statesmen have been busy with the politics of Ireland, some practical men have been calling attention to the necessity there is for introducing into that country such home industries as may be expected to relieve the poverty of the people. Mr. J. C. Bloomfield, the founder of the Belleek Potteries, has taken great interest in this subject, and brought it under the notice of the Royal Commissioners appointed to report upon Technical Education. This gentleman read a paper before the Society of Arts, about a fortnight ago, when he exhibited some fine specimens of Belleek ware, from solid sanitary objects to the most elegant egg-shell porcelain made with the true hard paste. The establishment of this industry at Belleek raised the inhabitants of the place from a miserable state of poverty to prosperity and content; and Mr. Bloomfield contended, that

if other industries were established in various parts of the country, the same results would follow.

The ladies at the Royal School of Art Needlework have just completed a magnificent piece of work in gold and colors for the Duke of Bedford, which is now being exhibited in their rooms at South Kensington. It is a portière of large proportions,



BOULLE CABINET OR ARMOIRE, FROM THE JONES COLLECTION.

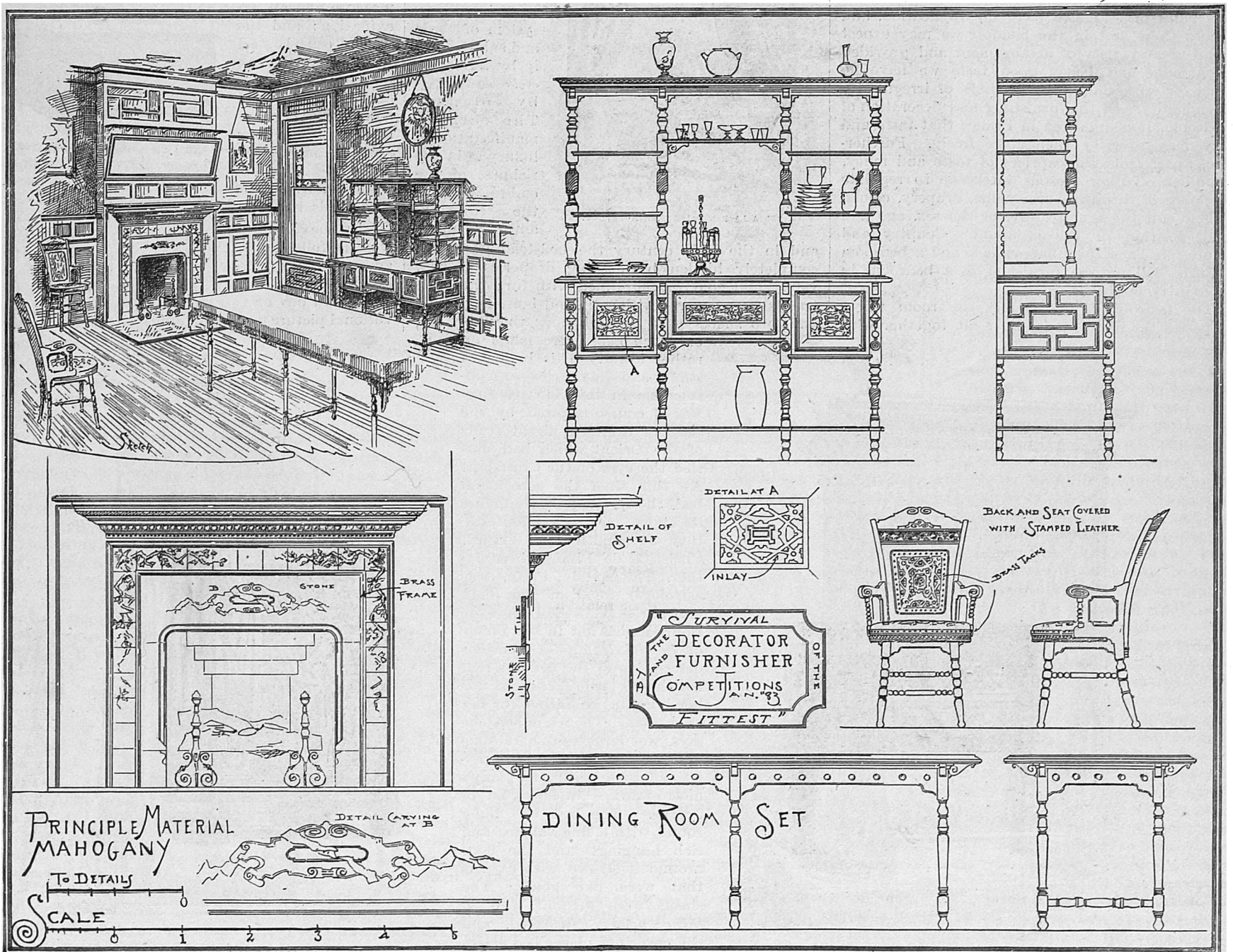
portions, with the Duke's coat of arms in appliqué work in the centre, and his monogram and crest at the four corners. This is probably one of the most elaborate pieces of needlework produced in modern times, and at the same time a very fine article of furniture.

## ART AND THE PEOPLE.

THERE never was a real art in the world that did not spring from the people, that was not fully shared in by the people, and that did not belong to the people. If there were to-day as much knowledge of and fondness for design as there seems to have been among the prehistoric savages of Europe, we should in a few years raise our manufactures of every kind to preëminence, and with them improve ourselves personally, morally and socially.

There is a great coming revival of culture and of art, but it will not be with us until we teach its principles to every child in every school. There is an instinct in mankind for decoration, for color, for manifestations of what is beautiful. It has been starved out temporarily by the practical developments of science or by the useful. This was well; but while comfort should be paramount there is no need of suppressing taste. Those who talk about the sunflower mania and "art craze" as something temporary, and who mistake the esthetes for the main army yet to come, are like the ambassadors sent by an African king to visit London, and who at the first small Arab village thought themselves at the end of their journey. As yet the people have not moved. A writer in "a Cincinnati journal," I know not who, has wisely said that "because some people have blue jugs and one gentleman an art gallery, therefore we are a great artistic people. But where are the works of our united citizens? What have the masses of our people done?"

What the masses of our people can do will be first shown when every one of them shall have been taught, first, decorative design, and then one or more minor arts. This design will be simple, and deal merely with outline and mere ornament at first. This is the only easy and proper preparation for more advanced drawing, be it practical or technological or for prospective picture making. Hitherto all elementary drawing has been misdirected either in copying shaded pictures, or, what is little better, in stiff and formal "systems." When all can design and all know something about decorative art the mystery will depart, and the world feel less awed before old masters and modern gothic churches.—Charles G. Leland.



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